



Editorial

Patient Groups Call on Congress to Fully Fund the Food and Drug Administration

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Twenty leading, national patient organizations have called on key members of the House Senate Appropriations Committee to provide, at a minimum, level funding for the Food and Drug Administration for Fiscal Year 1998.

"The Food and Drug Administration helps patients gain access to important new lifesaving therapies. It is critical that the Agency receive adequate funding so it may sustain and build upon recent achievements," said Don Riggan, President and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation and Chairman of the Board of Directors, National Health Council.

"Equally important, level funding to the Agency is necessary to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act for five more years," continued Mr. Riggan. One of the fundamental principles of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act is that the fees are additive and do not supplant the annual Congressional appropriation. Failure to provide at least level funding will automatically trigger an end to user fee payments, which will limit patient access to new therapies in a timely manner.

The Washington based National Health Council does not support the creation of new user fees, on industries not covered by current law, to make up for a reduction in funding to the Agency as called for in the President's budget request. Therefore, it is critical that Congress provide at least level funding to the Food and Drug Administration so it can continue to carry out its many critical public health responsibilities.

The National Health Council is a private, nonprofit umbrella organization of more than 100 health-related organizations nationwide. Its core membership includes over 40 of the nation's leading patient organizations, such as the Arthritis Foundation, American

Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International and the Alzheimer's Association, Inc.—all groups representing people with chronic diseases and disabilities. Other Council members include the American Medical Association, Biotechnology Industry Organization and private businesses such as Pfizer, Amgen and Cigna.

Thanks to Stephanie Marshall of the National Health Council for this info/editorial.

Commentary

Robert A. Nordyke MD

By George Chaplin
Editor at Large, The Honolulu Advertiser



Robert A. Nordyke MD of Straub Clinic and Hospital

Voltaire said, "Men who are occupied in the restoration of health to other men, by the joint exertion of skill and humanity, are above all the great of the earth. They even partake of divinity, since to preserve and renew is almost as noble as to create."

Many of Hawaii's physicians merit such an encomium, but none more than Dr. Robert Nordyke, now seriously ill.

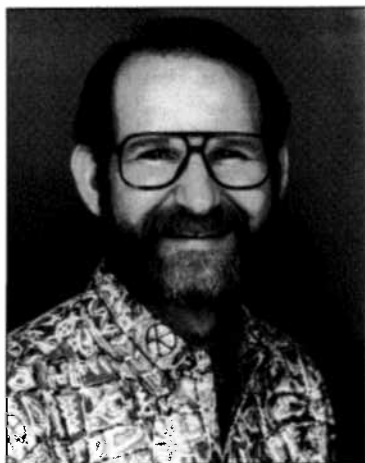
He is well recognized as a pioneer in nuclear medicine, but how many know his background, his formative years that made him into the multi-faceted person that he is?

He arrived 78 years ago in a California farming town, Woodland, in the Sacramento Valley, a town so small the kids could walk to either the elementary or the high school. They had one of each.

It was a time of screened porches and rocking chairs, a time of basic American values. His was a family with little money, but with seven children and lots of love - as well as a tree house that could be reached by climbing out of a second story window and jumping from the roof.

In due course Bob had a broken arm, poison oak and scarlet fever, with a big quarantine sign on the front door and half the family living elsewhere.

A lad with standard gustatory priorities, he used to sneak chocolate powder from a large can high on a kitchen shelf. Ever since, he sneezes every time he eats chocolate—either an allergy or an ongoing sense of guilt.



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Once, when his parents were away for a day, he was sent to stay with his maternal grandmother. He decided to run away - who among us hasn't? - with pajamas, toothbrush and favorite spinning top in a paper sack. It began to get dark, he was hungry and when a passing policeman told him his mother and dad were looking for him, his resolve melted and he let himself be taken home. Shades of Horatio Alger, Tom Swift and the Rover Boys!

A good, healthy, active American boy, he had his share of problems - from a BB gun that had a habit of shattering windows or targeting a well-padded lady's rump, to a ride on a horse he boldly mounted when he was five years old. The horse stopped on the tracks of the Sacramento Northern Railway and, despite Bob's frantic pleas, refused to budge. Fortunately, the oncoming electric

train screeched to a halt just feet away. Meanwhile, his mother was trying to find who had stolen her husband's favorite horse.

While Bob was still young, his dad taught him how to drive the family car. But instead of low gear he put it into reverse and promptly took out a nearby fence.

One summer during the Depression, he picked apricots on a ranch just out of town. He worked 10 hours a day, at 10 cents an hour, with 10 cents deducted for a sandwich and flavored water. Lunch! Incidentally, 10 cents is what it took in those days for a Saturday matinee featuring Tom Mix or Hoot Gibson.

As the Depression wore on, his mother, a Mills College alumna, had to take a job teaching. But it was in a nearly abandoned goldmine town in the Sierra foothills. There were only five children living there and since nine youngsters were required to qualify for an elementary school, Bob and three of his six brothers and sisters had to move there into a broken-down, unpainted shambles of a house, complete with well and outhouse. But winter snow and some old skis they found made up for the hardships.

Let's move to 1939, when at 19 Bob finished his junior year at Berkeley. His four-hour-a-day job in the university library didn't really enable him to save any money, so he got a summer job as a logger, felling timber in the Sierras. He and 17 others were signed up by a persuasive union representative. The next morning they were summarily fired. The National Labor Relations Board reinstated them, but a day later they were fired again - for "not working hard enough." No one since ever accused Bob of that!

A co-worker and friend of Bob's suggested they go to his family's farm in Idaho and pitch hay. Sounded good, but no money for travel, and a thousand miles to go. So, they hopped freight cars, sometimes clambering on top and stretching out, sometimes climbing into empty cars, scrounging food when they could, and most importantly, dodging unfriendly hoboos and railroad police, the notorious "bulls" eager to use their heavy clubs.

They finally got there and made the hay fly. But, always eager for new experiences, Bob during part of that summer worked as a Forest Service firefighter battling wild fires, which are always treacherous, often quick to reverse direction.

He survived, hitchhiked home and was graduated from Berkeley in 1940, having majored in English literature, political science and public speaking.

He signed up with his draft board, and followed with a two-month course in San Francisco in radio repair and radio telegraphy. He then thumbed his way to San Diego and got a job as radio operator on a large tuna fishing boat manned by Portuguese, only three of whom spoke any English.

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Off they sailed to the waters of Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. He sent Morse Code, up to 30 words a minute!

Came the war and Captain Robert Allan Nordyke put in four years in radar countermeasures. Next, med school at the University of California, San Francisco on the GI Bill. But there was no money to pay for the mortgage on a house he and brother Jim, a Navy lieutenant fresh from service, bought for their mother and themselves in Berkeley.

So he and Jim bought a 1928 - repeat, 1928 - Chevy with a flat bed for \$75 and went into the trash-hauling business in between classes. They did well and soon graduated to a one-and-a-half-ton surplus army truck bought at an auction.

Five years later, when interning at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Oakland, Bob Nordyke delivered, under supervision, 80 babies in a single month. Near the end of that rotation, at one delivery, he took off his mask and looked up at the new mother from between her draped legs and told her that all was well and that she had a beautiful baby.

She looked him straight in the eye and then, puzzled and upset, she said, "Aren't you my trash man?"

A few words about Bob's wife, Ellie, who lived in Hawaii as a child and went to Punahou. Came Pearl Harbor and she was evacuated to San Jose, where she finished high school. Her family and Bob's went to the same church and Bob's mother and brother decided that Bob was just right for her.

Once Bob was out of med school and Ellie completed a five-year nursing course at Stanford, they walked down the aisle on June 18, 1950, which adds up to 47 years ago.

Once Bob finished his grueling internship, Ellie quietly asked, "Why don't we take a year off and travel?" Great idea, but no money.

So ... he began working three eight-hour shifts - a regular daytime one at Kaiser's drop-in clinic, a 4 p.m. to midnight shift at Kaiser Hospital, and then on-call for emergencies from midnight to 8 a.m. Ellie worked two shifts, one as a public health nurse in San Francisco, and as a nurse in Kaiser's pediatric section. Six weeks later they had \$2,000 and were off - by plane to New York, third class on the Queen Mary across the Atlantic, a cheap Left Bank hotel in Paris, where they bought a car from two Stanford boys at summer's end, and headed for Belgium.

Their budget: \$2 a day, carefully nurtured, sleeping in a makeshift car bed on river banks, in hay fields, and splurging now and then in a



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campground in Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, south to France and Spain. The cupboard was almost bare, when they heard about possible jobs at a U.S. air base near Casablanca, and ferried across the Straits of Gibraltar, to Morocco. Bob got a just-opened medic's job at the base and Ellie, with no nurse vacancies, found work in the accounting department, with the snowcovered Atlas Mountains as a backdrop.

In three months they had enough money to continue traveling. A French ship out of Marseilles took them across the Mediterranean, through the Suez, down the Red Sea, past French Somaliland in Africa to Ceylon, then to Saigon, on to Singapore and Hong Kong. Next an American freighter to Japan and then L.A., where Bob began his residency in medicine. Hard to beat or even match folks like that.

Ellie, as many know, spent 23 years at the East-West Center, a power in the population field, with several books and innumerable professional articles to her credit. She's made her own contribution to the population explosion, since she and Bob have five children, of whom they can well be proud.

Their son, who lives next door to them just above Punahou, is a physician, in charge of the Queen's Clinic in Hawaii Kai. Their four daughters include a registered nurse in Colorado, a teacher-writer living in Tokyo, an engineer-lawyer working at Hawaiian Electric Company and a registered dietitian here in Honolulu. Add to that number 11 grandchildren and you've got a good-sized voting bloc.

Bob has had a distinguished career in nuclear medicine, an impressive list of academic and hospital appointments, leadership posts in local and national organizations, and a half-dozen excellence-in-research awards. On publications, I stopped counting at 90.

Bob Nordyke lives and loves medicine, but his interests go beyond. He is a talented writer, an avid reader of such authors as Melville and Conrad, such poets as Wordsworth, T.S. Eliot, and Robert Frost, such playwrights as Eugene O'Neill, to cite but a few. He is a precise man, but a warm and compassionate and caring one who has earned widespread respect, admiration, and affection.

Dr. Robert A. Nordyke Summarized Biography

Pioneer in nuclear medicine, computerized medicine, and what is now known as medical informatics; superb clinician, widely published medical researcher, medical educator, innovative administrator. Straub Clinic and Hospital, Pacific Health Research Institute and Straub Pacific Health Foundation. Professor of Medicine at John A. Burns School of Medicine, 1991-95; Governor of the American College of Physicians, Hawaii Chapter, 1981-85. Named as one of Hawaii's top doctors in *The Best Doctors in America: Pacific Region, 1996-1997* (Woodward/White Inc. of Aiken, S.C.) as reported in *Honolulu* magazine, June 1996, doctors chosen by other doctors.

Born: July 14, 1919 Woodland, California

Military Service: U.S. Air Force, Captain, Radar Countermeasures, 1942-46

Education: B.A., U. of California, Berkeley, in English, Public Speaking, and Political Science, 1940 M.D., U. of California, San Francisco, 1951
Rotating Internship, Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Oakland, CA, 1951-52
Residency, Internal Medicine, Wadsworth V.A. Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, 1953-56

Married: Stanford University Chapel, Stanford, 6/18/1950
To Eleanor Cole:

Daughter of Louise and Ralph G. Cole (executive director of the Y.M.C.A. of the Territory of Hawaii, 1931-41)
Punahou School, 1933-45
B.S., Stanford University, 1950
M.P.H., U. of Hawaii, 1969
Research Fellow, East-West Center, 1969-92
Author of *The Peopling of Hawaii*

Certification: Diplomate, American Board of Medical Examiners, 1959
Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine, 1959 and recertified 1977
Diplomate, American Board of Nuclear Medicine, 1972
Medical Organization:

Member of the following medical organizations :
American College of Physicians, Governor of Hawaii Chapter, 1981-85
American Society of Internal Medicine President of Hawaii Chapter, 1980-81
Society of Nuclear Medicine, President of Hawaii Chapter, 1962-63
American College of Nuclear Medicine
American College of Nuclear Physicians, Delegate from Hawaii, 1971-84
Hawaii Medical Association
Continuing Medical Education Program Committee, 1965-68
Continuing Medical Education Committee, 1969-72 vice chairman, 1962
Bureau of Research & Planning, 1971-75
Joint Manpower Commission (physicians, nurses), 1972-75
Chair, Health Manpower/Health Costs Committee, 1976-78
Community Health Care Committee, 1978-79
Representative to State Board of Medical Examiners, 1978
Editor of special edition of *The Journal of the HMA* in honor of his colleague, Dr. Fred I. Gilbert
Honolulu County Medical Society
Delegate to HMA, 1969-74
Board of Governors, 1979-81
American Thyroid Association
Western Society of Clinical Research
American Federation of Clinical Research
Hawaii Academy of Science, Council, 1967
Pacific Health Research Institute
Board of Directors, 1960-91 and 1993-present
Associate Director and Secretary, 1965-91
President, 1985-91
Medical Director, 1991-95
Senior Investigator, 1995-present
Adviser to 24 summer scholars, 1960-present
Straub Pacific Health Foundation, Vice-President, 1991-93
American Board of Nuclear Medicine, Hawaii representative, 1977
National Academies of Practice, Distinguished Practitioner, Academy of Medicine, elected, 1993-present

Community Service:

University of Hawaii, Health and Social Welfare
Manpower Education Council, School of Medicine representative, 1972-74
Rutgers University Research Resource in Computers in Medicine
Hawaii Community Foundation Medical Advisory Committee
Pacific Radiopharmacy
Professional Board of Directors 1979-95
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Advisory Board
Honolulu YMCA
Chairman, Camp Branch, 1964-73, Camp Erdman:
instrumental in bringing about building of new cabins, other structures
Central Union Church
Outrigger Canoe Club

Awards:

First annual Professional Activities Award, Straub Clinic and Hospital, 1984
Excellence in Research Award, Straub Pacific Health Foundation, 1989-91
Laureate Award, American College of Physicians, Hawaii Chapter, 1990
Annual Koa Bowl Award, American Society of Internal Medicine, Hawaii Chapter, 1991

Excellence in Research Award, Straub Clinic and Hospital, 1991 and 1993
Excellence in Research, Arnold Award, Straub Clinic and Hospital, 1995
Special Recognition Award, Society of Nuclear Medicine, Hawaii Chapter, 1997



Medical School Hotline

Publications: More than 100 professional publications

His Family

includes: **Wife:** Eleanor Cole Nordyke
Children: Mary Ellen Nordyke-Grace, Honolulu; Carolyn Cozzette, Highlands Ranch, Colorado; Dr. Thomas A. Nordyke, Honolulu; Gretchen (Nini) Worthington, Honolulu; Susan (Nunu) Nordyke, Tokyo
11 Grandchildren: Aimee M. Grace, Nalani L. Grace, Cameron N. Grace, Trevor R. Grace, Noelle W. Grace, Andrew N. Cozzette, Jennifer M. Cozzette, Larissa H. Nordyke, Veronica A. Nordyke, Thomas J. Nordyke II, and Kaylin E. Worthington.
Three sisters: Betty Scher, Claremont, CA
Helen Krug, Atascadero, CA
Mary Louise Hardison, Santa Paula, CA
Brother: James P. Nordyke, Honolulu

Description of Research Work Done by Dr. Robert A. Nordyke

Dr. Robert A. Nordyke is an internationally recognized specialist in nuclear medicine and a pioneer in the field of medical informatics, recognized for his development of computerbased medical records, databases, and clinical studies of thyroid disease. Since establishing the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Straub Clinic and Hospital in 1960, Dr. Nordyke has built a uniquely large and complete thyroid disease database, which has helped uncover many new facts about these frequently underdiagnosed diseases and about their treatments. He has demonstrated the correlation between size of a goiter (thyroid gland enlargement) and increased thyroid function (hyperthyroidism), has shown how the cure rate for hypothyroidism is affected by various drug combinations and dosages, and, most recently, determined what is the most cost effective sequence of thyroid function testing for general hospital laboratory use. Dr. Nordyke developed, in collaboration with Casimir A. Kulikowski, Ph.D., one of the earliest pattern recognition methods for computer decision support employing a combination of advanced statistical and logical reasoning techniques. Dr. Nordyke's research, in collaboration with Dr. Fred Gilbert, led the research efforts on information systems for multi-specialty clinics, chronic disease clinics, and screening for breast cancer at the Pacific Health Research Institute (PHRI).

(At a time when doctors kept patient records on 3x5 index cards and were viewing the computerization of medical records with suspicion, Dr. Nordyke recognized the power of computers as tools not just for keeping tidy notes, but for gathering and analyzing medical data in a way that would help direct doctors' diagnoses and treatments for patients. A visionary always bent on improving treatment for his patients, he was 30 years ahead of his time in realizing that the kinds of patients a doctor sees vary from practice to practice and that databases collected specifically for each practice improve the quality of patient care dramatically.)

Editor's Note:

Bob Nordyke MD is a very special man, as indicated by George Chaplin, himself a very special man.

Dr. Nordyke served as guest editor for the June 1995 Festschrift honoring Fred Gilbert MD - a testimonial to Fred and to his longtime associate and friend as well as to Bob. It was our largest and best Festschrift.

Bob has received many accolades, accomplishments and awards - as indicated in his biography. Most recently he received a special recognition award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Hawaii Chapter.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Bob for the Fred Gilbert Festschrift, for your efforts to construct cabins at the YMCA Camp Erdman on Oahu's North Shore, for your years of research and administrative guidance at the Pacific Health Research Institute, for the many many patients you have helped over the years, and for your friendship.

Public Health in Medical Education

**by Kenton J. Kramer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor,
Department of Tropical Medicine
and Medical Microbiology**

**Kay A. Bauman, M.D., Associate Professor,
Department of Family Practice
and Community Health**

A 1993 survey commissioned by the Assistant Secretary of Health Philip R. Lee stated that the United States had significant shortages of public health professionals including physicians (Am. J. Prev. Med., 1996). The goal of the U.S. Public Health Service, therefore, was to increase the number of physicians interested in the public health aspects of medicine. However, almost universally, medical education focuses on individual patients. It may be many years before the student realizes that his/her patient's health is directly related to the patient's family and the community in which the patient lives. The community medicine component of the M.D. Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) aspires to instill in our first year medical students an understanding of the principles of public health and the utilization of those principles to promote and preserve health.

Public health education emphasizes ways to promote and preserve health as well as to anticipate and/or correct factors adversely affecting the well-being and functioning of the community. This expansive view of health requires many types of health care professionals acting together as the physician for the community. In Hawaii, there is the added aspect of ethnic diversity and cultural beliefs which may at times come into conflict with western medical practices. The Problem-Based Learning (PBL) curriculum adopted by JABSOM in 1989 emphasizes the role of the family and the community in health issues by promoting community medicine as an important concept in medical care. One of our goals is to produce students with community awareness and cultural sensitivity and whose philosophy includes the maintenance and improvement of health not only for their patients but for all members of the community in which they serve.

JABSOM's curriculum gives our students a wide range of community experiences in order to promote cultural awareness and to examine ways of putting public health concepts into practice. To accomplish this goal, JABSOM has a dual tract community medicine curriculum. Entering first year students are required to select either the Primary Care and Community Medicine Program (PCCM) or the Ke Ola O Hawaii (Health of Hawaii) Program to fulfill their community medicine requirement. The student's total commitment in either program is 15 months.

In PCCM, the students participate in two of the following organizations: Queen Emma Clinics, Hina Mauka Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, HUGS (Help Understanding & Group Support) for seriously ill children, Diamond Head Mental Health Clinic, Halawa Correctional Facilities, Leahi Hospital's Adult Day Care